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ON PAGE 4

In Greece — beware of Arabs bearing timebombs

STAT

ATHENS — Operating in the shadows of the Acropolis, dozens of Libyan diplomats here are recruiting hundreds of Arab students every day in a well-financed bid to transform them into terrorists.

This ancient city has been deliberately chosen by Col. Moammar Khadafy as his "recruitment center" for Libyan terror operatives, according to top diplomatic and intelligence sources.

"If they're not trained in terror activities, and they don't have the know-how to train others, they can't be Libyan diplomats," said one well-placed NATO security source.

"You see them every day in the sidewalk cafes of the Plaka Quarter, wining and dining the Arab stu-



● Part I of Post Mideast Correspondent Uri Dan's tour of the terror capitals of Western Europe

dents who sit at their feet, picking up all the checks — and making new converts for terror," he said.

It's a scene that's repeated all over town, from the Temple of Zeus to the Tower of the Winds, and the would-be terror recruits targeted by the Libyans are not only students.

The story is still told in the Hotel Grand Bretagne of the beautiful Englishwoman who came here looking for a Mediterranean romance — and fell in

love with a Palestinian terrorist on the Khadafy payroll.

For the naive adventurer, it was an affair that could have come out of the pages of John Le Carre's "The Little Drummer Girl."

American intelligence learned the Palestinian planned to turn the woman into a human time bomb, and that he had given her a suitcase to carry through Constitution Square laden with explosives.

The Athens CIA station chief confiscated

the suitcase in the 1984 incident.

For his troubles he was thrown out of Greece by its pro-Arab government for acting without the knowledge of Greek police.

Greece has come a long way since the Age of Pericles.

In recent months, the country has been reminded again and again of just how vulnerable it is to Khadafy-inspired terror.

And for the first time, the government has begun screening Libyan diplomats, placing them under surveillance, reducing their freedom of movement, and tightening security nationwide.

"But that doesn't change the fact the Libyan People's Bureau in Athens is a hornet's nest of terrorism," said a Greek government source as he sat in the Cafe Zonas on Venizelou Street.

"It's turned Greece into a terror battlefield."

The Libyans do seem to operate with impunity here.

They are an uncommon breed of diplomats, these Libyans, with their dabbling in sabotage, kidnaping, hijacking, and terror throughout West Europe.

In fact, there are those in the intelligence community who think they're not diplomats at all. The term they sometimes use to describe them is "dolofonees," which is the Greek word for murderers.

NEW YORK POST

17 April 1986

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE 5

ITALY'S DEFENSE BOSS MARKED FOR MURDER

ROME — The Eternal City has lived with political intrigue ever since Brutus and Cassius engineered the assassination of Julius Caesar in the Roman Senate in 44 B.C.

And last night The Post learned of a deadly new plot hatched by Libyan terror operatives here.

Col. Moammar Khadafy's hirelings have targeted Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini for murder, according to top NATO military personnel and a Western intelligence service.

Spadolini, 60, a former prime minister, has been selected by Khadafy's death squads because of his uncompromising anti-terrorist stance, well-placed diplomatic sources here confirmed.

They pointed out that Spadolini long has been Israel's best friend in Italy, a champion of the Italian Jews and an advocate of a close working relationship with Washington.

"The alert already has gone out within the last couple of days and a tough security net has been thrown up around Minister Spadolini," a high-level NATO official said.

If the Libyan killing machine can strike anywhere, however, it can do it in Rome.

From the Spanish



● Part II of Post Middle East Correspondent Uri Dan's tour of the terror capitals of Western Europe

Steps to the Circus Maximus, Libyan agents are on the prowl here.

More than any other city, Rome is the Libyan terror capital of Europe, and its operations headquarters is a heavily-guarded fortress behind a forbidding stone wall at 365 Via Nomentana.

This is the Libyan People's Bureau, a giant compound under the shadow of the Colosseum that is home to 40 of

Libya's so-called diplomats — and the debriefing center for hundreds of Arab terrorists.

This is the place in the grandeur that was Rome where Abdul Rachman Shalgam holds court.

Shalgam is Libya's mustachioed ambassador to Italy, and it is said he also is the terror chief who forged the link between Khadafy and Italy's home-grown Red Brigades terrorists.

At a press confer-

ence yesterday, Shalgam vehemently denied the CIA and Italian intelligence had "suitcases full" of documents proving Libya had used Rome as a staging ground for terror.

One Western intelligence operative sees things differently, and he cited intercepted cables and transcripts of wire-tapped phone calls proving a Libyan hand in the Achille Lauro seajacking and the Fiumicino Airport massacre.

There is an strong economic tie between Italy and its ex-colony of Libya that may have something to do with attitudes here; the Khadafy government owns 13 percent of the Fiat automobile company.

ARTICLE APPEARED
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WHY ITALY LETS PLO MAKE IT A MOCKERY

IT WAS midnight in Messina when the frogmen surfaced from the murky waters of the Mediterranean on a mission of sabotage.

The night was moonless as they silently glided into positions around the two ships owned by the mysterious "Mr. Afifi."

The commandos were gone before the change of tide, and a deafening explosion rocked the Italian port minutes later.

One of the vessels sank like a stone to the bottom of the Rodriguez shipyard. The other was reduced to a drifting pile of flotsam.

Israeli intelligence had just won another battle in the secret war it wages on Italian soil against the specter of Arab terrorism.

"Leave no fingerprints," a Western counter-terrorist expert here says of the successful operation in Sicily on Jan. 31.

"Don't give the bastards your address . . . and don't give them a place to complain."

The scuttling of the two high-speed hydro-

foils was ordered when it was learned that their owner, a shadowy PLO frontman from Cyprus known only as "Mr. Afifi," was refitting them for a planned military adventure.

"The Palestinians were rebuilding and refitting the vessels," said a source familiar with the sabotage.

"And not for tourism either."

The crafts were about to be moved to another Italian shipyard to be armed when the frogmen struck, top diplomatic and intelligence sources told The Post.

The hush-hush Israeli mission in the icy waters on a gun-black night was part of the continuing covert war fought on foreign soil against Libya's Moammar Khadafy and the Palestinian terror apparatus he funds.

Why do the Italians allow such a mockery of their sovereignty? Why do they put up with a flagrant breach of their territorial integrity?

"We close our eyes and turn our head because we don't want to

be involved," says one former senior officer in Italian military intelligence.

There is another theory — a "when in Rome" theory — that says the Italian government and its security forces suffer from a collective guilt conscience.

For years, they have let Palestinian and Libyan terror agents operate freely on their soil, and in October of last year they bowed to Arab pressure and released Mohammed Abbas, the mastermind of the Achille Lauro seajacking.

It may be a sign of Italian even-handedness, and an admission of national guilt, when they grant Israel's Mossad agents the same freedom of movement to blow up foreign ships in Italian ports.

Jerusalem, of course, never hesitates to take advantage of another country's guilt feelings.

Israeli agents first struck against terror here in October 1972, a month after the massacre of their Olympic team in Munich, when they executed a Libyan embassy em-

ploye in downtown Rome who had taken part in the killings.

In spite of Italian permissiveness, the odds still seem to favor the terrorists.

Perhaps it's because Italy gets all its oil from its former colony of Libya, keeps more than 10,000 workers there, and is owed a cool \$1 billion by Khadafy.

In any case, it's no surprise that the paramilitary police keep a 24-hour watch on those two national symbols in the heart of the Eternal City — McDonald's and El Al.



Part III of Post Middle East Correspondent Uri Dan's tour of the terror capitals of Western Europe. Next: A veil of darkness grips the City of Light.

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ON PAGE 3

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THE POST BARES KHADAFY'S BERLIN CABLES OF DEATH

BERLIN — Already they are known in the Western intelligence community as the infamous "Brandenburg Telegrams."

They are three of the deadliest coded messages ever deciphered in the modern history of cablese.

It was these CIA-intercepted documents that led inevitably to the U.S. bombing of Libya

— and proved Tripoli was behind the disco bombing that killed a U.S. serviceman.

Now, for the first time, intelligence sources in the three-power Allied command have revealed to The Post the super-secret contents of those three cables, including some of the murderous wording.

The "Brandenburg Telegrams" forever close the circle of evidence around Col. Khadafy and his world of terror," said one Western expert with access to the papers.

The telegrams are code-named for the fabled Brandenburg Gate that separates East and West Berlin.

In 1721, the historic Gate was the inspiration for Johann Sebastian Bach's majestic "Brandenburg Concertos," but on March 25 of this year it served a very differ-

according to the language of the cable itself, and was to involve the "recruitment of Palestinians" willing to "undertake this job."

On April 4, another cable was sent from East Berlin to the headquarters of Khadafy's secret police in Libya.

"Tripoli will be very happy when you see the headlines tomorrow," the message said.

On April 5, at 12:45 a.m. German time, a powerful bomb went off in the La Belle nightclub in the Hauptstrasse, a popular gathering place for American soldiers and their dates.

Just 55 minutes later, at 1:40 a.m. on April 5, the Libyan People's Bureau dispatched another message home.

"The bombing is happening now," the cable said simply.

"The mission has indeed been accomplished successfully."



Part VI of Post Mideast Correspondent Uri Dan's tour of the terror capitals of Western Europe.

ent inspiration for Khadafy.

That was the day the first telegram sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin was intercepted by the CIA.

"An order of execution against any American targets" was issued in the cable, top intelligence sources told The Post.

The attack must take place "swiftly,"

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 5

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5 nations knew of cables of death

BERLIN — The "Brandenburg Telegrams" made such compelling reading that at least five of the world's major security services intercepted them.

Britain, the U.S., the Soviet Union and East and West Germany all found the deadly Libyan cables irresistible. The Post has learned.

In sparkling intelligence coups prized on three continents, the coded documents became the common property of both East and West.

But even though five governments knew Libya was plotting against an American target, three of them were tragically powerless to stop it.

And two — Moscow and East Berlin — deliberately chose to do nothing to stop it, top intelligence sources here said.

The Brandenburg Telegrams led inevitably to the U.S. bombing of Libya and proved conclusively that Tripoli was behind the April 5 blast in West Berlin's La Belle nightclub that killed a U.S.

● Last part of Post Mideast Correspondent Uri Dan's tour of the terror capitals of Western Europe.



serviceman.

The Post, which yesterday revealed the murderous language of the cables, was briefed on other communications between the Libyan People's Bureau and the Tripoli headquarters of Col. Moammar Khadafi's secret police.

The BND, the elite German intelligence unit, intercepted a wire on April 4 that left no doubt about the colonel's intentions:

"Tomorrow morning, with the help of Allah, the big event will take place."

That was just 24 hours before the murders of Army Sgt. Kenneth Ford, 21, and the Turkish woman who was his date that fatal night in the La Belle disco.

On April 5 at 1:40 a.m., less than an hour after the explo-

sion in the Hauptstrasse, another cable was dispatched, this one boastful in tone:

"It will not be possible to trace this important action to the People's Bureau."

The Libyans in their murderous arrogance were certainly wrong about that one.

The BND was listening in again, so was the CIA, and so was British military intelligence. — although The Post couldn't immediately learn if it was MI-5 or MI-6.

The professional spymasters in East Berlin were also tuned in — it was their ciphering machine that the Libyans had used — and so were their Soviet colleagues in the KGB.